



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

November 15, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE AND EMAIL

Mr. George Kahooohanohano
Chairperson, Board of Trustees
Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund
102 Merchant Street, Suite 1520
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

(808) 586-2320
eutfadmin@hawaii.gov
kahooohang001@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 893-0016

Dear Chair Kahooohanohano:

I am aware of the serious challenges currently being faced by the Employer-Union Trust Fund (EUTF) in connection with the on-going open enrollment. These challenges include confusion on the part of employees regarding the changes in coverage, as well as significant difficulties being faced by the EUTF staff in handling the volume of work being generated during the open enrollment period.

I am concerned that this situation could potentially result in an interruption in medical coverage for active employees and/or retirees at the start of the new year. I am also concerned that employees will not understand that their carrier may have changed, and that their visits to their usual physicians may therefore no longer be covered.

I trust that the EUTF Board will promptly take any necessary action to ensure that these potentially harmful consequences do not occur. I urge you to convene a special meeting of the Board to address these issues. Please understand that I am not recommending that the open enrollment period be extended. What I am suggesting is that the Board consider options to address the current challenges, such as possibly hiring temporary workers to assist the EUTF staff in handling the apparently overwhelming workload, in order to allow the open enrollment process to remain on-schedule.

Sincerely,



LINDA LINGLE

c: Jim Williams, EUTF Administrator

